

William Eric Rinehart
wrinehart@americanactionforum.org
Director of Technology
American Action Forum
1747 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
5th Floor
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Sir or Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for the Board of Directors of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). Starting in graduate school and continuing throughout my career, I have sought to understand the impact of new and emerging communications technology on various communities and advocate on the behalf of consumers. I first began to delve into the intricacies of technology's coevolution with civic engagement at the Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement at the University of Illinois, studying how communities in Chicago's underserved Westside and Southside connect and express concerns online. These experiences, along with my ties in rural Illinois, inform my work at the American Action Forum (AAF) and have served to ground my perspective on the Federal Communications Commission's Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee and Consumer Advocacy Committee.

Led by Douglas Holtz-Eakin, former Director of the Congressional Budget Office, AAF aims to inject forward-thinking ideas into the public debate that will build a better economic future, promote innovative, free-market solutions, and help create a smaller, smarter government. Much like the rest of the American Action Forum, as the first Director of Technology and Innovation Policy, I have built the program around data analysis. Utilizing both econometric techniques and advances in data science, I have conducted studies on a variety of issues of interest to the Board. For example, I performed a series of regressions on the available data for Lifeline, making it one of the few efforts to utilize this technique to understand its effectiveness. More recently, I found that the presence of broadband does little to explain the unemployment rate, median household income, the change in employment, or the rate of population change in rural regions. Rather, broadband adoption measures are far better at explaining these trends. On the next page is a sampling of work on the topic, and following that, my CV.

Understanding the effectiveness of broadband subsidy programs and how communities adopt broadband are both central research topics of mine. Given my continuing work in this field, I feel as though I would add a unique viewpoint to the Board. I appreciate your consideration of my application.

Regards,

William Rinehart

Research of Interest to the Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors

- [Broadband e-Connectivity Pilot Program Comments](#) – September 10, 2018 – Regulations.gov
- [A Look At Rural Broadband Economics](#) – August 14, 2018 – American Action Forum
- [What's In The Infrastructure Plan For Broadband?](#) – February 22, 2018 – American Action Forum
- [The Title II Order Is Costly and Ineffective, It Should Be Repealed](#) – August 30, 2017 – FCC Restoring Internet Freedom Filing
- [Why Is The Broadband Infrastructure Debate Dominated By Supply-Siders?](#) – June 21, 2017 – Medium
- [FCC Data Suggests Broadband Inequality Has Decreased](#) – May 11, 2017 – American Action Forum
- [Is Cost Really Stopping Consumers From Getting Broadband?](#) – May 10, 2017 – American Action Forum
- [Keeping the Internet Open and Free Doesn't Mean Title II](#) – April 26, 2017 – American Action Forum
- [Why More Government Owned Broadband Networks Aren't Being Built](#) – April 13, 2017 – American Action Forum
- [Five Myths Of The Broadband Privacy CRA](#) – April 4, 2017 – American Action Forum
- [How Well Do Rural Broadband Subsidies Work?](#) – March 1, 2017 – American Action Forum
- [Is The Lifeline Subsidy An Effective Program?](#) – February 28, 2017 – American Action Forum
- [FCC Chairman Wheeler By The Numbers](#) – February 8, 2017 – American Action Forum
- [The Real Question Behind Zero-Rating: Who Should Pay?](#) – February 7, 2017 – Medium
- [FCC's Overreach on Government Run Networks Gets Rebuke From Court](#) – August 16, 2016 – American Action Forum
- [Four More Things We Know About Fixed And Mobile Broadband Competition](#) – May 24, 2016 – American Action Forum
- [Four Things We Know About Fixed And Mobile Broadband Competition](#) – May 17, 2016 – American Action Forum
- [What's Missing From Lifeline Reforms](#) – March 18, 2016 – American Action Forum
- [Five Reforms To Modernize The Lifeline Subsidy Program](#) – December 7, 2015 – American Action Forum
- [FCC Proposes Changes to Lifeline](#) – June 9, 2015 – American Action Forum
- [Muni Projects Up To 50 Percent More Expensive for Consumers](#) – March 5, 2015 – American Action Forum
- [The FCC Changes the Definition of Broadband](#) – February 2, 2015 – American Action Forum
- [The Cost of an Internet Access Tax](#) – October 8, 2014 – American Action Forum
- [A Framework to Reform FCC Competition Policy](#) – June 13, 2014 – American Action Forum
- [Guidelines & Questions to Frame the Network Neutrality Proceedings](#) – March 21, 2014 – American Action Forum

WILLIAM ERIC RINEHART

1747 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Floor 5 | Washington, DC 2006
202.909.2453 | wrinehart@americanactionforum.org

EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

B.A., Political Science

Johns Hopkins University

M.S., Applied Economics

WORK EXPERIENCE

American Action Forum, Washington, DC
Director of Technology and Innovation Policy

January 2014 – Present

TechFreedom, Washington, DC
Research Fellow, Adjunct Fellow

September 2011 – January 2014

International Center for Law & Economics, Portland, OR
Director of Operations

September 2011 – January 2014

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Broadband e-Connectivity Pilot Program Comments – September 10, 2018 – Regulations.gov
- Is Facebook Now Over-moderating Content? – September 10, 2018 – The Technology Liberation Front
- Practical Problems with Regulating Tech in the Public Interest – August 30, 2018 – Prototype
- The Lasting Legacy of the Amazon-Whole Foods Merger Will Likely Be the Spread of Grocery Tech – August 28, 2018 – Truth On The Market
- Big Data Hubris – August 20, 2018 – Comments for the FTC's Hearings on Competition and Consumer Protection
- Platform Competition And The Implications Of Amex – August 20, 2018 – Comments for the FTC's Hearings on Competition and Consumer Protection
- Algorithmic Regulation And Consumer Welfare – August 20, 2018 – Comments for the FTC's Hearings on Competition and Consumer Protection
- A Look At Rural Broadband Economics – August 14, 2018 – American Action Forum
- The Folly Of Compulsory Licensing – August 10, 2018 – Weekly Checkup
- How Should Privacy Be Defined? A Roadmap – August 6, 2018 – The Technology Liberation Front
- The Definition of Technology Matters For Tech Policy And Growth – August 6, 2018 – The Technology Liberation Front
- Why Did The Facebook Stock Drop Last Week? Some Economics Of Decision-making – July 31, 2018 – The Technology Liberation Front
- Breaking Up Big Tech Is Hard to Do – July 22, 2018 – Wall Street Journal
- Breaking Up Tech Companies Means Breaking Up Teams And The Underlying Technology – July 23, 2018 – American Action Forum
- The Online Public Sphere or: Facebook, Google, Reddit, and Twitter also support positive communities – July 11, 2018 – The Technology Liberation Front
- Did The Supreme Court Get The Market Definition Correct In The Amex Case? – July 6, 2018 – The Technology Liberation Front
- What is 5G and how do we get there? – June 28, 2018 – American Consumer Institute Panel Russell Senate Office Building
- A History Of Failure: Government-Imposed Corporate Breakups – June 27, 2018 – American Action Forum
- Mandating AI Fairness May Come At The Expense Of Other Types of Fairness – June 21, 2018 – The Technology Liberation Front
- Is Internet Access a Right? – June 14, 2018 – Liberal Currents
- The AT&T-Time Warner Decision – June 13, 2018 – American Action Forum
- Making Sense of the 2017 Contingent Worker Survey – June 7, 2018 – American Action Forum

- Explaining The EU's General Data Protection Regulation – May 22, 2018 – American Action Forum
- Here's How to Regulate Facebook Productively! – May 15, 2018 – The Bridge Podcast
- The Congressional Review Act Might Not Fully Restore Net Neutrality, Leaving It A Zombie Regulation – April 19, 2018 – American Action Forum
- The Law & Economics of "Owning Your Data" – April 10, 2018 – American Action Forum
- Answering the Three Big Questions Surrounding Cambridge Analytica – March 21, 2018 – Medium
- Maybe the fake news problem was always there, but only now it's coming into the light – March 14, 2018 – Medium
- The Perils of the Subscription Model – March 12, 2018 – Medium
- Did the Microsoft Antitrust Case Pave the Way for the Tech Revolution? – February 28, 2018 – American Action Forum
- Illiberal Reformers of Speech – February 26, 2018 – Liberal Currents
- What's In The Infrastructure Plan For Broadband? – February 22, 2018 – American Action Forum
- Did Fake News Tip The Election? A Research Redux – February 21, 2018 – Medium
- Why A Data Portability Act Might Not Be An Effective Policy Path – February 6, 2018 – American Action Forum
- The Right Legislation For Net Neutrality – January 24, 2018 – American Action Forum
- The Reactions To Facebook's Changes Highlight The Privileged Status of News – January 19, 2018 – Medium
- Full Steam Ahead on The FCC's Office of Economics and Analytics – January 17, 2018 – American Action Forum
- Proposed Antitrust Legislation Would Be A Radical Departure – January 5, 2017 – American Action Forum
- Technologies of Freedom – January 3, 2018 – Cato Unbound
- Democracy as an Essentially Contested Concept – December 21, 2017 – Cato Unbound
- Five Questions To Ask About The Network Neutrality Rule Change – December 14, 2017 – American Action Forum
- Fake News and Our Real Problems – December 5, 2017 – Cato Unbound
- Community Broadband Bits Episode 281 – December 4, 2017 – Community Broadband Networks Podcast
- Understanding the Impact of Algorithms Requires Social Significance, Not Simply Statistical Significance – December 4, 2017 – Workshop on Trustworthy Algorithmic Decision-Making
- Episode 3: Algorithms, Justice and Will Rinehart – November 27, 2017 – Internet Law & Policy Foundry Podcast
- Eliminating Burdensome Media Ownership Rules Will Help Outlets Adapt To The Digital World – November 15, 2017 – American Action Forum
- Should We Care About The Size of Firms? Charting the Connections Between Productivity, Entrepreneurism, and Big Business – November 2, 2017 – American Action Forum
- The \$40 Billion Broadband Plan That Misses the Mark – November 2, 2017 – American Action Forum
- How Much Do Uber Drivers Make? From \$2 Per Hour to \$472 Per Hour – October 27, 2017 – American Action Forum
- The Social Graph Portability Act Doesn't Take Tech Seriously, and That's Worrying – October 13, 2017 – Medium
- Where Economists and Data Scientists Diverge – October 10, 2017 – Medium
- Who is to Blame for Algorithmic Outrage? – September 21, 2017 – Medium
- The Election of 2016 and the Filter Bubble Thesis in 2017 – September 15, 2017 – Medium
- The Rhetoric of Technopanics And Why It Matters – September 15, 2017 – Medium
- The Title II Order Is Costly and Ineffective, It Should Be Repealed – August 30, 2017 – FCC Restoring Internet Freedom Filing
- Rural Broadband Redux, What We Know – August 22, 2017 – American Action Forum
- This is why most criticism of risk assessment models is mistaken – July 25, 2017 – Medium
- Why Is The Broadband Infrastructure Debate Dominated By Supply-Siders? – June 21, 2017 – Medium
- The BROWSER Act Explained – June 14, 2017 – American Action Forum
- Broadband Subsidies Totaled \$8.2 Billion Last Year – June 1, 2017 – American Action Forum
- Four Missing Pieces To The John Oliver Bit On Net Neutrality – May 12, 2017 – American Action Forum

- FCC Data Suggests Broadband Inequality Has Decreased – May 11, 2017 – American Action Forum
- Is Cost Really Stopping Consumers From Getting Broadband? – May 10, 2017 – American Action Forum
- Keeping the Internet Open and Free Doesn't Mean Title II – April 26, 2017 – American Action Forum
- Testimony to the Council of the District of Columbia on Bill 22-92 – April 26, 2017 – American Action Forum
- Why More Government Owned Broadband Networks Aren't Being Built – April 13, 2017 – American Action Forum
- Five Myths Of The Broadband Privacy CRA – April 4, 2017 – American Action Forum
- R&D Funding In The First Year Of Trump's Administration – March 29, 2017 – American Action Forum
- How Well Do Rural Broadband Subsidies Work? – March 1, 2017 – American Action Forum
- Is The Lifeline Subsidy An Effective Program? – February 28, 2017 – American Action Forum
- FCC Chairman Wheeler By The Numbers – February 8, 2017 – American Action Forum
- The Real Question Behind Zero-Rating: Who Should Pay? – February 7, 2017 – Medium
- Was There Really A Fake News Epidemic? Three Reasons Why You Shouldn't Rely On The BuzzFeed Analysis Of Fake News – January 31, 2017 – Medium
- The Enchantment of Code and the Rise of Technoanimism – January 18, 2017 – Medium
- What Ever Happened to Slacktivism? – January 12, 2017 – Soapbox DC
- Washington should harness the power of the gig economy – January 10, 2017 – The Hill
- The Gig Economy: Research and Policy Implications of Regional, Economic, and Demographic Trends – January 10, 2017 – The Aspen Institute
- The Early History of the FCC Doesn't Provide a Basis for Regulating Facebook and Google Now – January 10, 2017 – Medium
- What The FCC Left Out From Its Zero-Rating Analysis – January 4, 2017 – American Action Forum
- Did Echo Chambers and Fake News Really Tip the Election? – December 02, 2016 – Real Clear Future
- Six Questions Policymakers Should Ask About the Gig Economy – November 17, 2016 – American Action Forum
- Why the LabMD Case Matters for the Regulation of Privacy – November 16, 2016 – American Action Forum
- What's Missing From the White House's Reports on AI? A Balanced Take on Entrepreneurism – November 10, 2016 – American Action Forum
- If I never again heard about the trolley problem applied to autonomous vehicles, I would be excessively happy – November 2, 2016 – Medium
- New York's Short Term Rental Ban Only Limits Opportunities – October 26, 2016 – American Action Forum
- An Innovation Agenda For 2017 – October 13, 2016 – American Action Forum
- Primer: Why Algorithms Are Important to Public Policy – October 5, 2016 – American Action Forum
- We Are All Cyberlibertarians: An Exploration of Technological Determinism and Cyberlibertarianism – September 7, 2016 – Tech Policy Corner
- The FCC's Media Ownership Order is a Retreat from Congressional Mandate – August 29, 2016 – American Action Forum
- Are Google Ads Really Gender Biased? – August 29, 2016 – Medium
- FCC's Overreach on Government Run Networks Gets Rebuke From Court – August 16, 2016 – American Action Forum
- What Will Brexit Mean for US Tech And Digital Trade? – July 26, 2016 – American Action Forum
- Which Policies Will Foster the Growth of Artificial Intelligence? – July 22, 2016 – American Action Forum
- New York Law Would Wipe Half a Billion Dollars of Value for Airbnb Hosts – July 21, 2016 – American Action Forum
- A \$281 Billion Recycled Technology & Innovation Plan – June 30, 2016 – American Action Forum
- No Congress Didn't Give the FCC a Broad Mandate to Regulate Privacy – June 23, 2016 – American Action Forum
- Court Finds Network Neutrality Rules Both Legal And Bad Policy – June 21, 2016 – American Action Forum
- How Workers are Benefiting in the Online Gig Economy – June 1, 2016 – American Action Forum
- Everything You Need To Know About Spectrum: A Primer – June 9, 2016 – American Action Forum
- Proposed FCC Privacy Rules Would Harm Innovation – June 7, 2016 – American Action Forum
- What Exactly Constitutes A Privacy Harm? – June 1, 2016 – American Action Forum

- Four More Things We Know About Fixed And Mobile Broadband Competition – May 24, 2016 – American Action Forum
- Four Things We Know About Fixed And Mobile Broadband Competition – May 17, 2016 – American Action Forum
- Is Facebook Suppressing Conservative News? Some Context and Questions to all the Innuendo – May 12, 2016 – Soapbox DC
- Merger Agreement Spotlights FCC's Turn Away From Innovation – April 28, 2016 – American Action Forum
- Five Things We Know About The "Filter Bubble Thesis" – April 27, 2016 – Medium
- Throw Back Thursday: When The FCC Used To Be Independent – April 21, 2016 – American Action Forum
- The White House Gets Involved in the FCC, An Independent Agency, Yet Again – April 21, 2016 – Medium
- An Explanation Of The Newly Proposed FCC Privacy Rules – April 19, 2016 – American Action Forum
- As Election Season Heats Up, Remember This Chart – April 15, 2016 – Medium
- Why Netflix's Recent Admission Matters For The Open Internet Debate – March 31, 2016 – American Action Forum
- A Brief Overview Of The Upcoming Spectrum Auction And The Repacking Problems – March 24, 2016 – American Action Forum
- Primer: The Basics Of Special Access – March 22, 2016 – American Action Forum
- What's Missing From Lifeline Reforms – March 18, 2016 – American Action Forum
- Yet Another Unprovable Theory About Trump's Political Rise – March 17, 2016 – Soapbox DC
- 20 Years Later, The FCC Still Needs To Align With Competition – March 9, 2016 – American Action Forum
- Five Reforms To Modernize The Lifeline Subsidy Program – December 7, 2015 – American Action Forum
- The Modern Online Gig Economy, Consumer Benefit, and the Importance of Regulatory Humility – November 19, 2015 – American Action Forum
- The Broad Implications of the Newly Invalid US-EU Data Pact – October 7, 2015 – American Action Forum
- Lifting The Ban On Internet Taxes Can Cost Consumers \$16.4 Billion – September 30, 2015 – American Action Forum
- Funding Increases in Basic Research Illuminate Changing Nature of Innovation – September 24, 2015 – American Action Forum
- In the Online Gig Economy, Policymakers Should Empower Workers – August 11, 2015 – American Action Forum
- What If Stalin Had Computers? Well, He Would Still Need Human Action – August 25, 2015 – Medium
- The Algorithmic Filtering Debate Desperately Needs More Nuance – August 24, 2015 – Medium
- Five Charts to Reveal the Real Digital Divide – August 6, 2015 – American Action Forum
- Why The Announcements from Google and Facebook Matter for US ISPs – August 5, 2015 – Medium
- Independent Contractors and the Emerging Gig Economy – July 29, 2015 – American Action Forum
- Policy Concerns of LTE in Unlicensed Spectrum – June 26, 2015 – American Action Forum
- The FCC Shouldn't Expand Spectrum Reserves – June 18, 2015 – American Action Forum
- Charter/TWC Relevant Market Analysis – June 17, 2015 – American Action Forum
- FCC Proposes Changes to Lifeline – June 9, 2015 – American Action Forum
- Student Data Privacy: 5 Rules to Follow – June 4, 2015 – American Action Forum
- John Deere's Copyright Issues – May 26, 2015 – American Action Forum
- The Real History of Title II and Investment – May 20, 2015 – American Action Forum
- Uber and the Economics of Discrimination – May 20, 2015 – On-Demand
- Recent Developments in Patent Policy – April 21, 2015 – American Action Forum
- Small Businesses Bear the Brunt of Network Neutrality Rules – March 24, 2015 – American Action Forum
- What is Driving the New Wifi First Cellular Services? – March 13, 2015 – Medium
- Muni Projects Up To 50 Percent More Expensive for Consumers – March 5, 2015 – American Action Forum
- Title II Reclassification is a Bad Software Patch – February 12, 2015 – American Action Forum
- The President's Plans for Technology and Innovation in FY 2016 – February 2, 2015 – American Action Forum
- The FCC Changes the Definition of Broadband – February 2, 2015 – American Action Forum
- Title II Reclassification Negatively Impacts Jobs and Investment – January 14, 2015 – American Action Forum

- Primer: Network Neutrality and Title II – December 11, 2014 – American Action Forum
- Title II Reclassification Explained – November 24, 2014 – American Action Forum
- Net Neutrality and Reclassification Make American Broadband Consumers the Real Losers – November 17, 2014 – CNS News
- A Look Inside The Complicated FCC Transaction Review Process – October 31, 2014 – American Action Forum
- The Economics of Ello's Manifesto – October 15, 2014 – Medium
- The Cost of an Internet Access Tax – October 8, 2014 – American Action Forum
- Reply Comments on the Comcast-Time Warner Cable Merger – September 24, 2014 – American Action Forum
- Taking Chairman Wheeler's Broadband Competition Challenge Seriously – September 5, 2014 – American Action Forum
- NFL Blackout Rule Has Run Its Course – September 4, 2014 – American Action Forum
- The Daily Dish – August 26, 2014 – American Action Forum
- Comments to the FCC on the Comcast-Time Warner Cable Merger – August 25, 2014 – American Action Forum
- STELA Reauthorization Highlights Need for Video Reform – August 5, 2014 – American Action Forum
- Intellectual Property Underpinnings of Pharmaceutical Innovation: A Primer – July 29, 2014 – American Action Forum
- Comments to the FCC on Net Neutrality and Title II Reclassification – July 17, 2014 – American Action Forum
- How to Think About Modern Media Mergers – June 20, 2014 – American Action Forum
- A Framework to Reform FCC Competition Policy – June 13, 2014 – American Action Forum
- Principles to Rationalize Spectrum Policy – May 1, 2014 – American Action Forum
- The Daily Dish – April 28, 2014 – American Action Forum
- The Daily Dish – April 10, 2014 – American Action Forum
- What is Network Neutrality – April 7, 2014 – American Action Forum
- Guidelines & Questions to Frame the Network Neutrality Proceedings – March 21, 2014 – American Action Forum
- What Does Netflix's Strong Net Neutrality Actually Achieve? – March 21, 2014 – American Action Forum
- President Obama's Take on Technology and Innovation in the FY 2015 Budget – March 4, 2014 – American Action Forum
- Comcast-Time Warner Cable: An Overview of the Relevant Markets – February 19, 2014 – American Action Forum
- New Net Neutrality Bill Drops, Concerns Still Linger – February 7, 2014 – American Action Forum
- Network Neutrality Decision a Mixed Bag for Consumers – January 14, 2014 – American Action Forum
- Reply Comments In the Matter of Modernizing the E-rate Program for Schools and Libraries – November 7, 2013 – TechFreedom & The International Center for Law & Economics –
- The Law and Economics of the FCC's Transaction Review Process – August 23, 2013 – TPRC 41: The 41st Research Conference on Communication, Information and Internet Policy
- The Market Realities that Undermined the FTC's Antitrust Case Against Google – July, 2013 – Harvard Journal of Law & Technology
- To what standard of free speech should we hold Twitter? – June 5, 2013 – The Commentator (UK)
- The internet, like the press, works best when left alone – May 20, 2013 – The Commentator (UK)
- Balancing innovation with data protection – May 7, 2013 – The Commentator (UK)
- CISPA fight reveals political split in Internet policy battles – April 23, 2013 – The Commentator (UK)
- Regulators should keep their hands off 4G – April 7, 2013 – The Commentator (UK)
- Does cable really have a 97% profit margin? – February 15, 2013 – The Daily Caller
- E-Books and the Boundaries of Antitrust – September 3, 2012 – Concurrences, No. 3-2012